

# Meeting Minutes-State Interagency Team Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2020

2:00-3:00

**Location:** Skype only

**Facilitators:** Diane Bugbee and Cheryle Wilcox

**Note Taker:** Cheryle Wilcox

**Present:** Karen Price, Karen Bielawski-Branch, Diane Bugbee, Cheryle Wilcox, Dana Robson, Laurel Omland, Danielle Bragg, Melanie D'Amico, Amy Lincoln Moore, Auburn Waterson, Barb Joyal, Alicia Hanrahan

**Regrets:** Amy Roth, Suzanne Legare Belcher, Brenda Gooley, Monica Ogelby

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes
Department/Agency Updates	<p><b>DAIL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary focus is health and safety right now</li><li>• Some DAs have developed letters that explain why they are out and about as essential workers</li><li>• Guardianship is by emergency guardianship only through probate court.</li><li>• Weekly Q and A meetings with DS Directors across the state</li><li>• Many guidance documents available on website</li><li>• Looking to see if FMR can be expanded given that so many families are home with children.</li><li>• Revising the Equity Funding Committee process during COVID-19 public health crisis – not sure what that will look like. No longer holding in person Equity Committee meetings. DAs will be informed about the details of the new process once determined.</li></ul> <p><b>Family Services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective 3/24 the remaining youth at Woodside were moved to Suite 12, NCSS building. This is a staff secure setting. There are four youth. There has not been legislative closure. Woodside will be used by DMH.</li><li>• Youth programmatically placed in residential are hopefully going to stay where they are. If they lose staff, they may combine youth together.</li><li>• In a week 24 youth went home or to foster care that had been placed in residential in-state.</li><li>• Residential programs are fragile. Footbrook closed.</li><li>• Supports are being provided to foster parents.</li><li>• Working on standing up a roster of caregivers who are willing to consider caring for a COVID symptomatic child (not in a high-risk group/ no other kids in the home/ able to support a level of isolation etc.). Also working on an enhanced rate for caregivers who are caring for a child who becomes symptomatic while in their care and is directed to isolate by a doctor. Special rates will be allowed.</li></ul> <p><b>DMH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanks to DVHA levers were pulled so providers can provide services telephonically.</li><li>• Essential services memo going out today to mental health providers.</li><li>• There is clarification for Success Beyond Six providers as well.</li></ul>

- Woodside is being staffed by DMH to be prepared for adult individuals with MH challenges who have tested positive for COVID with mild symptoms who do not need hospitalization.
- Working with CMS to ask for waivers for Home and Community Based Services
- DMH is standing up a webpage for MH job board—for posting of essential positions they have that will be needed.
- 10 children returned home or to other placements; still working to move 3 more out of temporary placements.
- Trying to figure out PNMI funding for those programs to shore them up fiscally.
- BR is not taking referrals for out of state clients
- Working to keep the state hospital and Middlesex facility stable and staffed.

**CDD:**

- Lots of work being done around childcare and how to provide childcare to essential workers. There is a form that can be filled out by parent regarding their child and what they need for care.
  - question was asked about children who have a disability and/or mental health need. Karen said Melissa Riegel-Garrett is leading the effort and can be contacted for more information.
- Working closely with VDH and Let's Grow Kids
- Providing daily guidance
- CIS – guidance is out, and the only essential service is Part C.
- In close touch with the parent child centers.
- First call tomorrow with all CIS coordinators.

**AHS Central Office:**

- Auburn shared she has been responding to requests-mostly to homeless providers-needing trauma informed guidance.
- Looking at how to have trauma informed messaging around trauma-informed communication.
- AHS public facing website has resources including mindfulness, self-care, stress management

**DVHA:**

- Lots of outreach to providers regarding telehealth as much as possible.
- Working with ABA providers to be extended to use telehealth
- Working with retreat due to a number of individuals who cannot be transitioned to other placements.
- A lot of questions about financial support needed by agencies and providers. Working hard to address this.

**Vermont Family Network:**

- Trying to get pertinent information out to families.
- Doing FAQ's rather than links so it is less overwhelming for families.
- Getting a lot of calls around basic needs. High tech nursing and DS waivers and looking to see if parents can be paid.

**Federation:**

- Trying to do as much as possible through telephone and electronic means.
- Cindy Tabor is still on medical leave; Sandi Yandow is interim Director.
- Amy is staying in touch with parent reps on a weekly basis.

**AOE:**

- Significant amount of guidance going out from AOE.
- A lot of the agency has been focused on trying to get the public schools in place. Now working to get guidance out to independent schools.
- Very challenging environment to try to support all children and it gets much more complicated for children with high needs.
- Schools are being asked to provide a continuity of learning should the closure be extended.

**Monica Ogelby, CSHN: Emailed the following update:**

I wanted to also chime in that at CSHN in particular, we're managing the following:

- Responding to inquiries from families who are requesting additional CPCS services and/or for families to be paid PCAs
- CSHN care coordination is not considered an essential service
- Navigating how to support families telephonically
- A lot of requests coming in for SSI and ESD supports in response to job loss/hour reduction